

1 State of Arkansas  
2 89th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2013  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 482

5 By: Senators S. Flowers, Bledsoe  
6 By: Representative Ferguson  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REINSTATE THE MINIMAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE  
10 DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.  
12  
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## Subtitle

15 TO REINSTATE THE MINIMAL QUALIFICATIONS  
16 OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
17 HEALTH.  
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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-7-103(a) and (b), concerning members and  
23 officers of the State Board of Health, are amended to read as follows:

24 (a) The members of the State Board of Health shall elect one (1) of  
25 the members as president. ~~However, the Director of the Department of Health~~  
26 ~~shall not serve as the President of the State Board of Health.~~

27 (b)(1) The board shall nominate to the Governor a Director of the  
28 Department of Health.

29 (2)(A) The Governor shall appoint the director who shall serve  
30 at the pleasure of the Governor.

31 (3) The director shall:

32 (A) Serve as the State Health Officer;

33 (B) Serve as the Secretary for the State Board of Health  
34 and shall have all the powers of a member of the board;

35 (C)(i)(a) Be a licensed medical doctor who is a graduate  
36 of a school of medicine recognized by the Arkansas State Medical Board; and



1 (b) Hold a graduate degree in public health or  
 2 a graduate degree in a recognized public health discipline from an accredited  
 3 college or university or have equivalent knowledge and experience in public  
 4 health as determined by the State Board of Health; and

5 (c) Have experience in the practice of public  
 6 health and in leadership and management, the sufficiency of which shall be  
 7 determined by the State Board of Health; or

8 (ii) Hold a doctoral degree in public health or a  
 9 doctoral degree in a recognized public health discipline from an accredited  
 10 college or university with at least five (5) years of experience in the  
 11 practice of public health and at least ten (10) years of experience in the  
 12 leadership and management of a large complex organization the sufficiency of  
 13 which shall be determined by the State Board of Health.

14  
 15 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 25-9-101(a)(2), concerning the appointment  
 16 of the director of the Department of Health, is repealed.

17 ~~(2)(A) The Governor shall appoint the Director of the Department~~  
 18 ~~of Health if established, and otherwise the Director of the Division of~~  
 19 ~~Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.~~

20 ~~(B) The director shall:~~

21 ~~(i) Serve as the executive head of the Department of~~  
 22 ~~Health or the Division of Health of the Department of Health and Human~~  
 23 ~~Services;~~

24 ~~(ii) Serve at the pleasure of the Governor;~~

25 ~~(iii) Act as the Secretary for the State Board of~~  
 26 ~~Health; and~~

27 ~~(iv) Serve as the State Health Officer, with~~  
 28 ~~appropriate authority to ensure public health and safety, including~~  
 29 ~~leadership on health issues related to emergency preparedness and disaster~~  
 30 ~~management.~~

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 33 **APPROVED: 03/19/2013**